

## Government Staff Stole from Citizen, in Singapore

I am staying in a landed property. I use to have a, now I called a Stop Cock Cover Frame place on the ground in my backyard. About 20 years ago the contractor was doing some construction work in the neighborhood and threw away these objects into a dumpster (large dustbin) park at the roadside. I went to the dumpster and asked the contractor whether I could have one for souvenir. The contractor said those are rubbish, you could take as many as you want.

The PUB comes around to my backyard to take water measurement once every two months for the last 20 years and still do and see the object as they walk pass it. They did not raise any objection. Recently in year 2014, there was low water pressure, a PUB staff Robert came to service and he turned up the water pressure. But after a week the pressure dropped and I called again and he came again to turn up the pressure. He came many times. He did not raise anything about the object.

Then I called PUB and told them one of the reasons the pressure drop is because my house was sharing the pipe with my neighbor and their construction activity was causing the problem and asked the pipes to be separated. They agreed and came down to separate the two pipes. On the day of the construction work I spoke with the in-charge who is Robert. I had a conversation with him before the work started. During the conversation, I casually pointed out the only object on the ground (and was far from the work area) whether he knew what that object was. He said he did not know. He asked me what it was. I told him that object had been there for 20 over years and must be an antique by now. He concluded the talk by giving me a warning that he knew my friends in the estate and warned me not to talk too much.

A few days later I went to inspect the completed work. I noticed something amidst. After much time I realized the object was missing. I called Robert and asked him where the object was on the ground we spoke about. He said, "this is PUB's Property". I told him he committed theft of my property. 1) If it was indeed PUB's property why their people has been coming around for 20 over years and did not mention anything about it, 2) And why when Robert was around for many times he did not mention anything, 3) Why only after I mentioned it is antique, it is taken away, 4) If PUB is to confiscate it, where is their warning letter before the actual confiscation.

If one were to look at the example in the statue, which I was given one, it states if a ring is found on public property and someone takes it, that person who takes it then become the owner of the ring, theft has not occurred. So if PUB throws the concrete cover frame into a dumpster and I take it, then I am the owner of the object. Also I told PUB that if the owner of the object who left it in Public area (example, your car) and catches the person who takes it then that person is a thief caught in action. In this case Robert admitted to taking it.

They did not complete the construction work properly. I told the Director of PUB that they did not install a new Stop Cock frame in my house, and only back-filled with soil. I told them I did not see it install. The Director insisted they did. He took a bet with me to dig it up to check. Then prior to the digging up appointment, and about Jan/Feb 2014 they quietly came to dig up the ground to install a Stop Cock Frame, without my knowledge. They did this illegal work without informing me in advance, which they must. Because work on the water supply directly affect any sick person at home who needs water, or the pipeline is connected to equipment (example, water cooler) that needs to temporary turn off during their work. When they meddle with the pipeline, the first few litres of

water is always sand, mud and dirty water. On the day of the digging up of the ground, I saw the image of the ground different. I asked their in-charge a Director of Corp Comm/QSM whether they did any illegal work. He insisted they did not do any further work after Robert finished the work. I showed him the image of the ground before and after. Then he owned up and said they did do work but it was on their side of the pipeline. He later agreed that whether working on their side or my side of the pipeline but is to do with supplying water to my house, that they should have informed me in advance as usual.

I went to see the Minister of Environment, Dr Balakrishna. I told the Minister that the object is precious to me because it has sentimental values, and I am doing a long term stress test research on it. The Minister told me this: "Oh, that thing is worthless". I was completely surprised at the reply. Because it appears now, that whether something is precious to me or not is not in the Eye of the Beholder, it depends on whether the Minister says so. The Minister also did not see it as an act of theft, because he did not reply to me when I asked him.

At the mediation session at the State Courts, PUB did not come with the attitude to mediate, which is to do give-and-take that is what the government said what mediation is. They came with non-negotiable terms. I told them I will withhold payment until the matters are resolved. And they kept silence and did not object.

In July 2015, they came to shut off my water supply, without any pre-warning letter. I reported to the police. Their staff asked their worker to turn back the water supply. But their worker refused to obey the orders, and would not do overtime to resolve the issue. Then the next team came to turn on the water at 2:00am in my presence.

PUB said they will reply me, which was at the beginning of August. But I did not receive it until the morning of Monday, 14 Sep 2015. The letter threatens to turn off my water supply if I do not pay up in full by 21 Sep 2015. The letter is dated 8 Sep 2015. I cannot recall a letter posted out in 8 Sep 2015 could take 6 days to reach me within Singapore. So it appears they withheld posting the letter until it will reach me on the morning of 14 Sep 2015, exactly after the recent big event general election date.

I have replied to their letter about 15 Sep 2015 requesting for them to settle the theft and compensation issues, and to provide me with a formal bill of arrears so that I can pay. I waited for their reply. On 29 Sep 2015, they came to shut off my water supply again without replying to my letter.

Today, 30 Sep 2015, I have been to PUB at Environment Building intending to pay the arrears. There are sums to be deducted which the PUB staff agrees. I asked for the deductible to be taken off from the total figure so that I will pay what I need to pay and they can turn on my water supply. But their PUB staff said they do not know how to calculate manually and must wait for the system to calculate in a month's time. They said their Director needed time to do the approval. And their Director asked me to pay more than what I needed to pay and he will return the extra to me at another date about one month's time. I disagree and asked why do I have to suffer losses to pay more and the extra return to me later. And why they need so much time to look into the case. PUB staff did not want to settle today and did not turn on my water supply and claims that I do not want to pay. And they have yet to settle the theft issues.

It appears they do not care what unreasonable, illegal or uncivilized actions they do to consumers, they only want their way, in another words an act of legalized gangster.